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**J.A. HINES**

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 42ND ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

**Testimony in Support of AB 800 before the Assembly  
Committee on Public Health February 20, 2008**

Good morning. I want to thank the committee members for reviewing my remarks on Assembly Bill 800 and I apologize for not being able to present them to you in person. I also want to thank Senator Lehman for his work on this legislation and for agreeing to testify before the committee in my absence.

AB 800 will establish a minimum set of standards an individual must meet in order to obtain a license to practice radiography in Wisconsin. It will also establish a limited X-ray machine operator permit for those who are not fully licensed. Currently in Wisconsin, anyone can perform an x-ray with little or no training required. Only CT scanners, radiation therapists, and mammographers are required to be registered radiologic technologists in the State.

When unqualified individuals perform radiographic examinations, there is an increased chance of poor image quality, potentially leading to the loss of diagnostic information. The loss of this information means the patient could be subjected to more x-rays, or worse, it could lead to an undiagnosed or misdiagnosed disease or trauma, resulting in unnecessary suffering for the patient.

AB 800 does not change current law with regard to professions that are involved in radiography and are currently regulated by the State, including: chiropractors, dentists, podiatrists, and physicians assistants. Senator Lehman and I involved the Department of Regulation and Licensing in the drafting process and DRL does not oppose this bill.

I think it is important to note that this bill is supported by, and was requested by, the very people it will be applying to: the radiographers. Several of them are here to testify this morning and I applaud them for attempting to have Wisconsin join 38 other states with some form of oversight of their profession.

Again, I thank you all for reviewing my remarks and I urge you to join Senator Lehman and me in supporting AB 800.





Wisconsin State Senate  
**John Lehman**  
Senator — 21st District

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**Testimony of Senator John Lehman  
Assembly Committee on Public Health  
February 20, 2008  
Assembly Bill 800**

Thank you, Vice-chair Vukmir and committee members for taking testimony today on Assembly Bill 800, relating to the licensure of the practice of radiography. It's nice to be back in the Assembly with you today.

I am also joined today by Sandy Helinski, Legislative Chairperson of the Wisconsin Society of Radiologic Technologists.

I understand that Representative Hines is unable to be here today due to illness but I want to extend my thanks to him and his staff for all their work on this bill and their efforts to address the issues that arose along the way in drafting the bill.

Some time ago I was approached by the Wisconsin Society of Radiologic Technologists about introducing legislation to license people who perform x-rays. I was quite honestly surprised to learn that there was no such requirement.

Quite simply, Assembly Bill 800 will bring Wisconsin in line with 38 other states (including area states Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois and Indiana) by creating a licensure requirement for the practice of radiography.

The quality of care can be improved and the people of Wisconsin can be protected from unnecessary and potentially harmful exposure to radiation by establishing standards for the practice of radiography, courses of study, examinations and continuing education.

Because the use of X-rays are widespread across professions including chiropractors, podiatrists and dentists accommodations have been made to respect these professionals and it is my understanding that they have no objections to the language of the bill as introduced.

In addition, Assembly Bill 800 has the support of the Wisconsin Medical Society.

People ought not to have to worry that diagnostic tests to help get them better could expose them to harm. Health care providers ought to be confident that those operating their equipment are properly trained. And we should take common sense steps to help reduce unnecessary medical errors. Implementing standards and licensing requirements for the practice in radiography in Wisconsin will help to address these concerns.

Thank you for your time and I'm happy to try to answer any questions you may have.

**Assembly Committee on Public Health Public Hearing on AB 800  
February 20, 2008**

Good Morning Chairman Hines and Committee members. My name is Sandra Helinski. I have been a registered radiologic technologist for 27 years and serve as the Chairperson of the Legislative Committee of the Wisconsin Society of Radiologic Technologists (WSRT). The WSRT is a non-commercial, non-sectarian, and non-partisan professional organization representing persons interested in and employed in the art and science of diagnostic and therapeutic radiologic procedures. It is an affiliate of the American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT). Its purpose as stated in its mission and bylaws is to advance the science of radiologic technology and to assist in the establishment and maintenance of high standards of education and training, and to elevate the quality of patient care.

Ask yourselves these questions: Did you know that **anyone** in Wisconsin may perform x-rays on patients? If your answer is "no," you are not alone. Have you, a friend or family member reported for an x-ray procedure with the full realization that the person irradiating you may never have had a day of training, or the proper training to yield a safely performed and useful exam? Chances are, your answer is "no" again. Most patients assume that the all of personnel we meet in medical settings are knowledgeable and educated in their duties. It is unfortunate that at this time, this is not guaranteed in the performance of diagnostic x-rays in Wisconsin. This is the reason the WSRT has taken steps to address this transgression, and ensure the quality, safety and cost- effectiveness of x-ray procedures for the patient population of Wisconsin.

The WSRT and its affiliates around the nation have been involved in the federal effort to pass HR 583, the Consistency, Accuracy, Responsibility, and Excellence in Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy Bill, the CARE Bill. This bill would establish federal minimum standards of education and credentialing for persons administering medical radiation, as well as for the performance of other diagnostic imaging procedures. It would amend and enforce the Consumer-Patient Radiation Health and Safety Act of 1981 that was intended to minimize unnecessary exposure to potentially hazardous radiation. This 1981 bill provided states with a model statute for the licensing of radiologic personnel. Wisconsin is one of several states that **never complied** with the guidelines of this 1981 legislation. It is believed as the CARE bill gains momentum and co-sponsors, that passage of the CARE Bill in the House of Representatives along with its companion Senate bill, S1042 will occur in this session of Congress. When it does, all states including Wisconsin will be required to act. The WSRT has responded with the creation of AB 800 in the interest of being proactive for proper patient care, and in light of this impending legislation.

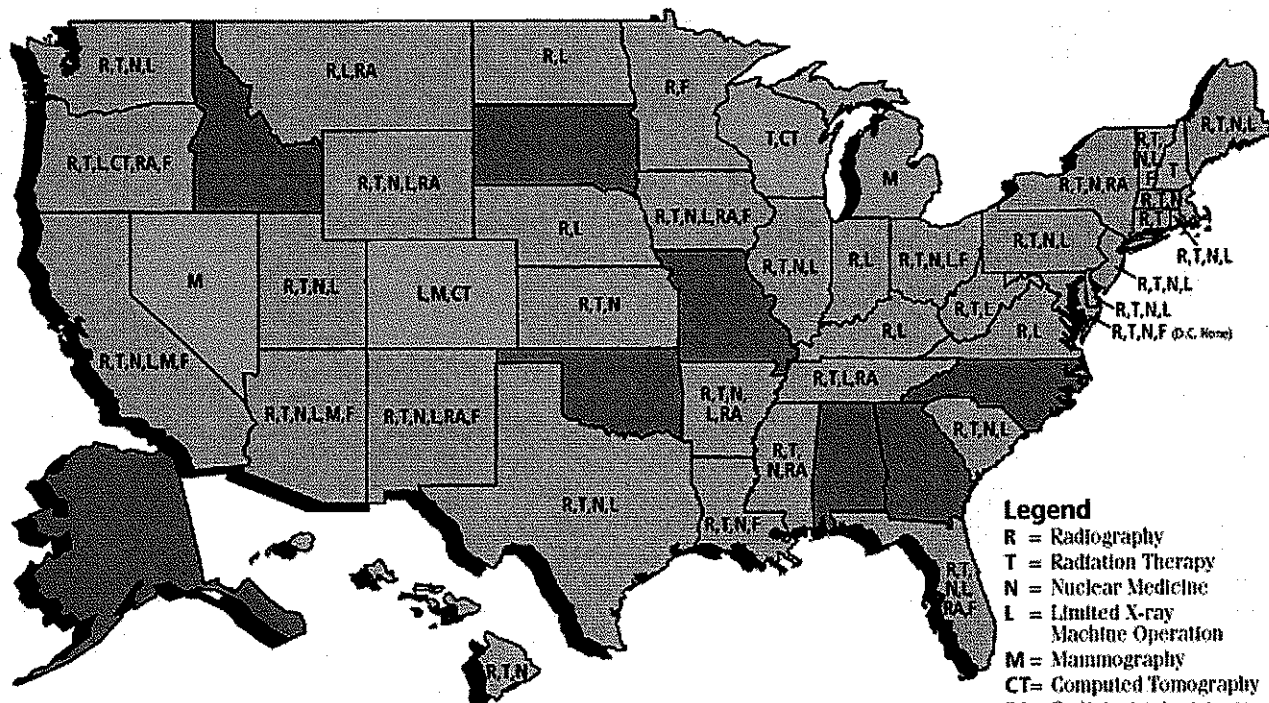
Operators of medical x-ray equipment deliver the largest portion of man-made radiation to the general public. Radiation is safe and valuable if properly applied. But can be harmful or even deadly if misadministered. In an Oxford University study, 1% of all cancers were reported to be caused by the administration of medical radiation. In our quest for enacting state regulations pertaining to administration of x-ray radiation, we have heard shouts of support for the need for such measures. A radiologic technologist of 30 years and a radiology manager of 80 x-ray departments across the country expressed that she was very "glad" to see that "Wisconsin is finally submitting legislation in support of licensing." One Wisconsin technologist in a 715 area code called me personally to report that he is often required to repeat films taken at clinics outside of the hospital in which he works. These patients are referred back to his facility for repeat studies as the original films were rejected by the radiologists as "undiagnostic." He stated that those originals are performed by medical assistants that have not received any training in radiologic

procedures. In a suburban clinic, a radiologic technologist associate was prescribed to have an "abdominal series" of 3 film exposures due to severe abdominal pain. After submitting himself to six exposures, and being asked by the person taking the films if she could do 3 more, he demanded to know who she was. He discovered that she was the phlebotomist, a person that draws blood. In another case an Oak Creek police officer reported to a Milwaukee-area clinic for an employee physical. After 4 films of her chest, the person wanted to repeat 2 more, all that this officer should have had to begin with. The officer declined after finding out that this person was the clinic receptionist. These patients trusted that they would be treated appropriately, and were not. After double the amount of radiation exposure necessary in these two cases, nothing valuable came from this administration of ionizing radiation to their bodies. The enforcement of proper educational and training standards on these clinic personnel would have prevented these medical mistakes. Safety, and quality are at the heart of the rationale for advancing this legislation. That is why the WSRT stands in support of AB 800.

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# Does Your State Regulate Medical Imaging and Therapy Technologists?



## States That Do Not Have Any Licensure or Regulatory Provisions For Radiologic Personnel\*

Alabama	Idaho	Oklahoma
Alaska	Missouri	South Dakota
Georgia	North Carolina	

\*List complete as of Sept. 1, 2006. In addition to the listed states, the District of Columbia also does not license radiologic personnel.

	States That Regulate
	States That Do Not Regulate
	States That Partially Regulate

Assembly Committee on Public Health Public Hearing on AB 800, February 20,  
2008

I am in support of AB800

We all know that radiation can cause cancer. "In fact, x-rays have recently been officially classified as a carcinogen by the World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences"(ACR White Paper on Radiation Dose in Medicine.) The effects of unnecessary radiation are not immediately known. Unnecessary radiation can increase a patient's risk of cancer, chromosomal mutations, and damage to developing fetuses in pregnant women. Our quest for enacting state regulations pertaining to administration of x-ray radiation is to reduce the unnecessary overexposure to the people in the state of Wisconsin.

For many patients, the x-ray is the first step in answering a medical question. The "gateway to diagnosis" that guides the medical team in prescribing the next course in treatment, and possibly more advanced, and expensive imaging studies. Untrained operators performing medical imaging procedures can produce suboptimal exams that can lead to a misdiagnosis or delay in diagnosis which can increase health care costs and even worse shorten a patient's life. Supplies, labor and time are wasted when an x-ray exam has to be repeated. With the increase in health care costs, lowering the need to repeat poor quality medical imaging exams performed by untrained operators is one way to control costs. Repeating unsatisfactory exams doubles the cost of that procedure which is passed on to the insurance companies and then to the consumer-patient.

In 2006, Wisconsin spent over 4.6 billion dollars in Medicaid expenses. Medicaid spending increased by 10.7% nationwide in the first six months of 2007. Radiologic procedures are an expensive portion of these Medicaid dollars. The money spent by Wisconsin to pay for imaging procedures covered by Medicaid should be performed by individuals qualified to produce usable medical information for cost effective healthcare at the outset. AB800 would assist in reducing health care costs.

Radiologic technologists are the third largest category of healthcare professionals surpassed in number by only physicians and nurses with 6793 registered technologist currently in Wisconsin. It is unknown exactly how many untrained operators there are currently working in the state. A few years ago the Department of Health and Family Services sent out a survey to try and get an estimate of the number of technologist and operators working in the state, but unfortunately there was a very low response.

The WSRT has taken great care and time to create a workable, practical, and sensible piece of legislation. We have looked at radiologic regulations and laws around the nation in the drafting of this proposed legislation. It is our belief that we must establish ourselves as a state with radiologic legislation comparable or equal to that of our neighboring states, not lesser than. Our legislative committee has visited with numerous

legislators' offices to hear their views, many of whom were unaware that this matter is still not addressed in Wisconsin. The WSRT has consulted with other medical groups who have expressed an interest in our mission and those who partner with the radiologic sciences. We have met and worked together to address concerns that affect each other's practices, maintaining the central focus of our mission: the patient. The WSRT's focus has been and will continue to be driven by the need to provide proper patient care in the radiologic setting on all levels. This includes the consideration of limited scope x-ray personnel, many currently already providing those services. AB800 is sensitive to including provisions for those persons to be educated to perform their limited duties in the best interest of the patient's radiologic health. It is our mission to elevate the current level of radiologic care for Wisconsin's patient population. The WSRT is very capable of assisting in this quest in the provision of continuing education opportunities to all individuals who share our resolve. The advancement of AB800 will accomplish this mission in the promotion of proper radiologic patient care for all of Wisconsin with safety, quality, and cost-effectiveness as its underlying principles.

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**Assembly Committee on Public health Public hearing on AB 800**  
**February 20, 2008**

Good morning Chairman Hines and Committee members. My name is Lance H Momon and I am in favor of assembly bill AB 800. I understand that assembly bill 800 regulates the use of ionizing radiation with X-rays to the human body to people who hold a license or who hold a limited X-ray machine operator permit. As I complete my education towards becoming a licensed radiographer, I have gained an extensive knowledge base and understanding of the biological effects of ionizing radiation. In courses such as Radiobiology, Radiation protection, Physics, and Quality Assurance, a foundation of knowledge is gained in the proper use and maintenance of X-ray equipment, and most important, the safety of my external customers. I understand that each time I expose a patient to ionizing radiation that I adhere to a code of ethics and follow rules and regulations set by the ARRT, my facility in which I am employed, and other regulating bodies. I feel that radiographers should be recognized by our state government whereas other healthcare professionals are.

Thank you Chairman Hines and Committee members for the opportunity to be heard .

Lance H Momon  
School of Radiologic Technology  
9200 W. Wisconsin Avenue  
Milwaukee, WI 53226-3596



**Assembly Committee on Public Health Public Hearing on AB 800**  
**February 20, 2008**

Good Morning Chairman Hines and Committee Members. My name is Kyle Theine; I am a senior radiologic intern at the Froedtert Hospital School of Radiologic Technology in Milwaukee.

I strongly support Assembly Bill 800. Throughout my education and training to become a certified radiologic technologist, I have gained an understanding of the effects that ionizing radiation has on the human body. As I perform specific radiologic procedures I know that the radiation I am delivering has biologic effects in all of my patients.

As a patient of a hereditary condition, I was greatly surprised to discover that over the past 12 years, radiologic procedures performed on myself and family may have been completed by non-qualified personnel. In my family's case, the quality of the image is extremely important. The smallest detail of measurement can mean the difference between continued observation or open heart surgery. Every single patient deserves to have a licensed *operator* or *Radiographer* performing their procedures safely and correctly to render a valuable diagnosis. The *operator* or *radiographer* will have knowledge of anatomical structures and will be competent in radiographic positioning and protection. This knowledge and skill will help to reduce the misadministration of ionizing radiation and increase the quality of care provided all patients.

I would sincerely like to thank you for your time and consideration on this very important issue.

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**Assembly Committee on Public Health Public Hearing on AB 800, February 20, 2008**

Susan Lura Sanson M.S. RT(R)(QM)  
Director of Staff Development  
Froedtert Hospital  
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Milwaukee, WI 53228  
414-805-5381

I am in full support of AB 800.

I had been a Radiology Educator for over 25 years. I am currently the Director of Staff Development at Froedtert Hospital. I have my undergraduate degree in Physics with a minor in Chemistry, my Masters in Education and I am a certified Radiologic technologist and I am also credentialed in Quality Management.

As the Program Director of Radiologic Technology over the years I have had hundreds of people apply to my program who according to their application were operating imaging equipment and now wanted to learn more. Unfortunately these folks radiate unsuspecting Wisconsin Residents. There is a multitude of ways to reduce dose to a patient ...from selecting the appropriate technical factors, minimizing the radiated field and shielding sensitive parts. People who have been hired off the street do not receive education on these important steps which minimize dose. Wisconsin allows **anyone** to operate imaging equipment.

It is a known fact that x-radiation can cause cancer. There is a nationwide concern that with increased utilization of imaging equipment we may see a rise in radiation induced cancers. The federal government is so concerned that they have regulated imaging equipment manufacturers to limit leakage radiation and output intensities....logic dictates that it only makes sense that the people who operate the equipment have some degree of education to assure the safety of public.

Wisconsin should act now to protect its citizens from over exposure to ionizing radiation by uneducated off the street imagers....please support AB 800.

Fork Lift Operator....

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**Assembly Committee on Public Health Public Hearing on AB 800  
February 20, 2008**

**Presented By:**      **Connie Slomczewski, BS, R.T., (R)**  
                             **4225 W. Madison Blvd**  
                             **Franklin, WI 53132**  
                             **(414) 421-6829**

Chairman Hines and other distinguished members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to address this committee in support of AB 800, relating to: licenses and limited x-ray machine operator permits to engage in the practice of radiography.

I have been a registered Radiologic Technologist since 1972 and have been active at the local, state and national levels of this profession since 1992. I am currently the Director of Radiology Services for Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare All Saints in Racine, Wisconsin with responsibilities for both hospital and ambulatory Radiology practices.

I stand in full support of this bill as a patient care advocate and an administrator. As a patient care advocate, I believe in the provision of quality care by qualified practitioners who take their professional responsibilities seriously. Patients trust that when they have a radiologic procedure performed, the individual performing the service is competent and qualified. Unfortunately, that is not the case in Wisconsin today. This bill will ensure that all patients in Wisconsin can be confident the person performing their radiologic procedure understands the benefits and risks of ionizing radiation, and can provide quality images to help diagnose disease.

As an administrator, I support this bill because it allows for limited license practitioners to work in physician offices and clinics, and in some hospital based practices. In my own institution, I am responsible for both hospital and clinic based Radiology services. Wisconsin healthcare providers and patients would benefit from limited license practitioners for several reasons.

- **Financial:** As you are aware, the cost of healthcare in Wisconsin is of concern to every citizen. I believe that limited license practitioners would serve as competent staff in those environments where practice is restricted to basic radiography (chest x-rays, feet, ankles, hands, abdomen x-rays, etc). These limited license practitioners can also be trained to perform other non-radiologic procedures such as EKGs, basic lab work, et al to expand their duties. It is likely the wage of a limited license practitioner would be less than a fully competent ARRT registered technologist, and could decrease staffing costs to healthcare providers.
- **Workforce Shortage:** In 2006, radiologic technologists held 196,000 jobs across the US; an estimated 40% of these were non-hospital based (medical clinics, physician offices, free-standing imaging centers). The US Department of Labor predicts that the demand for radiologic technologists will increase by about 15% between 2006 and 2016, faster than average for all occupations. I believe that lack of action on this bill will allow more opportunity for unqualified people to utilize ionizing radiation as the need for qualified practitioners increases.
- **Quality:** In 2007, United Healthcare announced that it would require all non-hospital based imaging facilities to hold accreditations from the American College of Radiology (ACR) or the International Accreditation Commission (IAC) for CT, MRI, Nuclear Medicine, Nuclear Cardiology, Positron Emission Tomography (PET) and Echocardiography. This requirement specifically addresses the quality and safety of medical imaging through the application of nationally recognized standards for providers of outpatient imaging services. Both the ACR and the IAC require ARRT registration for technologists to qualify for accreditation. I believe that more insurers will be moving in this direction as they continue to seek proof of quality imaging for the healthcare consumer.

In summary, I stand in full support of this bill. The people of Wisconsin have a right to expect quality and safe practices when they are in need of Radiology services. Our surrounding states, Illinois, Minnesota, Michigan, have enacted laws to protect patients from potential harm from inappropriate use of ionizing radiation for medical purposes; why do our citizens deserve less? Thank you for the opportunity to address this Committee.